



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

Jan 15, 2016

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PAUL'S NOTE

Last month, my colleagues reviewed a proposal regarding earned sick and leave time for employees in Tucson. Many of us already work for employers that offer leave time, but an estimated 100,000 Tucsonans do not.

The proposal was suggested by leaders in organized labor. That isn't a complete surprise, but many other local groups including the AARP, Emerge and Planned Parenthood supported the proposal as well.

The proposal that came to us would require employers to give their workers one hour of paid sick time for a certain

number of hours worked. This could only be used by an employee who has been on the job for 90 days. An employee could use up to 40 hours a year of sick time at a business of fewer than 10 employees, or 56 for larger businesses.

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics says that employees use only an average of four days of leave a year.

Supporters of this proposal include the Arizona Public Health Association, which has concerns about sick workers choosing to go to work if they don't have the option of paid leave. This not

only compromises the health of the individual employee, but puts other workers at risk.

My colleagues and I also heard from advocates for domestic violence victims. My office heard from Emerge Center Against Domestic Abuse that it is difficult for domestic violence victims to seek help when there is not a leave policy at their work place. Whether it is court, medical care or looking for other aid from local agencies, all of these things are time consuming.

That said, there is great concern from our small business community. One per-

PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

son being out on a given day can mean a lot for a company with a small staff. If necessary work is going to get done, that company will either have to bring another worker in to do the work, meaning two salaries are being paid for the same hours, or leave it undone. The second option could mean lost business in a lot of cases. Several newer business owners reached out to me personally and advised me this proposal would harm their business. Concerns were expressed that some businesses would pass on opening within the city limits and that the city is not equipped to enforce such an ordinance.

Concerns on both sides are valid. We put together a group of citizens to listen to all sides of the issue. The stakeholder group includes Molly McGovern from the United Food and Commercial Workers, Tom Dunn from the Arizona Builders Alliance and Fred Ronstadt of the Fourth Avenue Merchants Association. In all, 29 community members will be on the panel.

(I uploaded the list to my council website and it can be found at: https://www.tucsonaz.gov/files/ward2/Stakeholder_List_16-01-04.pdf)

The group started meeting this week and will have two more public meetings: 6-7:30 pm January 21 at the Ward 6 Office, 3202 E. First St. and 6-7:30 pm January 28 at the Ward 2 Office, 7575 E. Speedway. You can also e-mail comments to econdev@tucsonaz.gov with "Earned Sick and Safe Time" in the subject line. regarding leave time for employees in Tucson.

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Rincon/UHS will be having their third annual Alumni Family Fun day on Saturday, January 23rd at the Rincon/UHS softball field from 11 to 2. The events will include games for kids, a silent auction and a snack bar that organizers promise will be "awesome."

There will also be an alumni softball game, and I will be throwing out the first pitch. Go Rangers!

SHADE TREES

To kick off the new year, during January and February 2016 the Trees for Tucson program is offering Tucson Electric Power customers cool shade delivered to your home at a special price of three trees for \$15! New participants are welcome, and residents who have received low-cost trees in past years are also eligible to participate again in the new year.

In the Tucson area, trees can be planted throughout the year, including during winter months as these trees are frost-tolerant. Cool temperatures and moist soil due to the wetter than usual El Niño weather patterns make planting easier than ever and conditions optimal for establishing new trees.

Trees for Tucson is also offering a wider selection than ever before of native and desert-adapted trees including the popular Desert Willow, Mesquite, Palo Verde and Pistache, other unique choices such as Catclaw Acacia, Fan-Tex Ash, and Palo Brea, and evergreen varieties such as Texas Ebony and Ironwood.

This program is sponsored by Tucson Electric Power to shade buildings and reduce summer cooling costs. To qualify for this special pricing on home shade trees, residents must be in the Tucson Electric Power service area and agree to plant the trees within 15 feet of the west, south or east side of the home.

Trees may be ordered online at www.treesfortucson.org or call (520) 837-6835 to receive a mailed or faxed form. Trees are delivered within a few weeks of ordering, and will be at least 3-5 feet tall. Instructions for tree planting and care are provided at the time of delivery. Be sure to order your trees soon! This special offer ends February 28, 2016.

STUFF THE BUS

Sun Tran, KGUN 9 News and HSL Properties are partnering again this year to sponsor a “Stuff-the-Bus” food drive, benefiting the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. A Sun Tran bus will be located at River Oaks Apartments at 7730 East Broadway (Broadway and Pantano) on Friday, January 15, 2016. Donations will be accepted from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Individuals are asked to bring non-perishable food items and/or monetary donations to the event. Items such as canned soups, boxed cereals, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, and canned meats such as tuna fish, chicken, and corned beef are often in short supply. Please refrain from donating items in glass jars, frozen turkeys, or items that have expired.

For more information on “Stuff-the-Bus” please call Customer Service at (520) 792-9222 (TDD: (520) 628-1565) or visit www.suntran.com.

SENIOR OLYMPICS

Tucson Parks and Recreation presents the 32nd Annual Senior Olympic Festival. This festival is a celebration to promote fitness, health, and an active lifestyle among adults 50 years of age and older. Events include volleyball, bowling, bridge, racquetball, basketball shoot, pickleball, archery, golf, tennis, horseshoes, badminton, and so much more.

The 32nd Annual Senior Olympic Festival will feature nearly 100 events and activities at more than 20 venues throughout the City of Tucson from Jan. 9 to 31, 2016

PARKS PROGRAMS

Carol West Senior Center: Seniors will have a field trip opportunity to the Pima Air and Space Museum on Thursday, January 14th. Departure from the center is 9:30 a.m. and return is 2 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Sign up at the senior addition front desk.

The Carol West Senior Addition will host a "BINGO BASH" event on Thursday, January 21 from 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. The cost is \$2.00 per person. The Brookdale sponsored event will include an afternoon of Bingo with great prizes, refreshments and fun! Space is limited.

Contact the Carol West Senior Addition for questions, 791-4121

Facility Closures: All Parks and Recreation facilities will be closed Monday, January 18, 2016 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Summer 2016 Activity Guide: Watch for the Summer Tucson Parks and Recreation 2016 Activity Guide which will be published on Monday, April 18, 2016. The Activity Guide will have complete information on classes, programs, aquatics, and registration. The guide can also be viewed at www.ezeereg.com.

Contact Registration Services at 791-4877 for more information or questions.

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Remember to like
Paul on Facebook!

Please bring these items to the Ward 2 Office
for the following charities:

**THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK—Non Perishable
Items**

**DIAPER BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA—
Infant/Child/Adult Diapers**

**TIHAN - Personal Care Items for Individuals
and Families in Need**

LIONS CLUB—Eye Glasses

**DANCING IN THE STREETS ARIZONA—Ballet/
Dance Equipment**

CASA MARIA—Plastic bags

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Due to the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, the next Mayor and Council meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 20**. Regular Session starts at 5:30 pm following an afternoon study session.

There is always a short call to the audience before the business portion of the meeting. Council chambers are located downtown at 255 W Alameda.

The agendas for the meetings are posted online at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/mcdocs>

